

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Crystal Komm on April 17, 2008.

At the end of claim 1, the end of claim 23, the end of claim 25 and the end of part (a) in claim 27, the phrase --of a blood sample-- was inserted after the phrase "hematocrit level".

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Application serial no. 10/733,871 is being allowed since none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a reference solution composition and a method of using the composition to calibrate an instrument comprising 7-15% by weight of a water soluble polymer such as polyethylene glycol, 6-10% by weight of a glycol, and 5-10% by weight of a polysaccharide such as dextran, wherein the reference solution composition has a conductivity corresponding to a known hematocrit level of a blood sample. None of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a composition comprising the components recited in the instant claims, wherein the composition has a conductivity corresponding to a known hematocrit level of a blood sample.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maureen M. Wallenhorst whose telephone number is 571-272-1266. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden, can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maureen M. Wallenhorst
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797

mmw

April 29, 2008

/Maureen M. Wallenhorst/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797